

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Patent Public Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting

Congressional/Governmental Affairs
Update

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Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

March 2, 2017

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Early Congressional Activity

115th Congress (first session)

U.S. Senate

- Nominations
- House-Passed Bills
- FY 2017 Appropriations
- FY 2018 President's Budget – Mid-March (budget "pass-back" released 2/27)

U.S. House of Representatives

- Bills per Congressional Review Act
- Regulatory Process Legislation
- FY 2017 Appropriations
- FY 2018 President's Budget – Mid-March

Early Congressional Activity

115th Congress (first session)

NOMINATIONS REQUIRING SENATE CONFIRMATION

Cabinet (In Succession Order)

State

Treasury

Defense

Justice

Interior

Agriculture

Commerce (Wilber Ross confirmed 2/27)

Labor

HHS

HUD

Transportation

Energy

Education

Veterans Affairs

Homeland Security

Cabinet Level

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

1,200 Other Positions

Early Congressional Activity

115th Congress (first session)

OGA Congressional Member and Staff Engagement Activities

Efforts include:

- “Day in the Life” of USPTO for Congressional Staff, Feb. 24
- Individual Staff meetings (ongoing, including Judiciary, CJS and new member targets)
- Possible Caucus Briefings and meetings
- Upcoming Congressional Events
 - Congressional Inventions Caucus, “Women in Tech” Event, March 22
 - Congressional App Challenge “House of Code” Event, April 4
 - World IP Day, April 26 (2017 Theme: “Innovation - Improving Lives”)
- Regional Office Programs Support
 - China Roadshows in Houston, Dallas (May), Boston (April 18)
 - IP Enforcement program in Dallas (August/September)

IP and USPTO Issues likely to be discussed

115th Congress (first session)

- **Patent Litigation Reform**
 - Venue (*TC Heartland* case before the Supreme Court)
 - Sec. 101 (USPTO Roundtables and Proposed Stakeholder Legislative Recommendations)
 - Adjustment of IPR Proceedings
- **Copyright Issues**
 - New Register of Copyrights
 - Structure of the Copyright Office – Funding and IT Modernization
 - Small Claims Court Legislation
 - Treaties – Marrakesh (VIP) and Beijing (Audiovisual Performers)
- **TM Disparagement** (*Slants* case before the Supreme Court)
- **Fee Setting Authority Extension**
- **“TEAPP” Extension** (Telework Enhancement Act Pilot Program)

Questions and Comments

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OGA Background Materials

USPTO Congressional Committees of Jurisdiction

115th Congress – U.S. House of Representatives



Authorizing Committees

Committee on the Judiciary

Bob Goodlatte (R-VA-6), Chairman

John Conyers (D-MI-13), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet

Darrell Issa (R-CA-49), Chairman

Jerry Nadler (D-NY-10), Ranking Member

Appropriation Committees

Committee on Appropriations

→ Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ-11), Chairman

Nita Lowey (D-NY-17), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

John Culberson (R-TX-7), Chairman



Jose Serrano (D-NY-15), Ranking Member

USPTO Congressional Committees of Jurisdiction

115th Congress – U.S. Senate



Authorizing Committees

Committee on the Judiciary

Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Chairman



Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Ranking Member

Appropriation Committees

Committee on Appropriations

Thad Cochran (R-MS), Chairman



Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Vice Chairman

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Richard Shelby (R-AL), Chairman



Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Vice Chairwoman

USPTO's Office of Governmental Affairs

Structure: 10 Staff (mixture of attorneys and policy professionals)

Situated within the Office of Policy and International Affairs

Core Mission

Represent USPTO on Capitol Hill

*(Advance PTO's
legislative agenda,
prepare testimony, brief
staff, provide technical
advice)*

Respond to Requests from Members of Congress and Facilitate Clearance

*(constituent issues,
facilitate clearance of IP
policy documents within
the USG)*

Build Relationships and Maintain Goodwill with Elected Officials

*(Support regional office
engagement, build
fed/state relationships &
stakeholder outreach)*

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